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Rush for change will leave Tourism industry stranded

Tourism Minister, Matt Conlan’s decision to push the legislation through Parliament on urgency to establish a new Tourism Commission fails the test of accountability as it avoids scrutiny and consultation with industry.

Shadow Tourism Minister Ken Vowles said the CLP Government used its numbers in Parliament today to push legislation to establish the Tourism Commission through on urgency despite calls from the Opposition for them to consult with tourism operators across the Territory.

“The people who will be most affected by these changes are tourism staff and operators, yet there is scant time to have a say in this process,” Mr Vowles said.

“The move to rush this bill though on urgency is unconventional as there is no reason to do so.

“A debate in the November sittings would allow time for consultation with stakeholders in the tourism sector.

“Regional and indigenous tourism operators are now at risk of not having a say on changes that will impact them either.

“The change of government has been a disaster for tourism in the Territory.

“They are moving Tourism NT to Alice Springs is purely based on politics with no logical reason on how this will attract one extra tourist to the Territory.

“Staff were not consulted and this move was not mentioned prior to the election.

“Tourism is one our key industries in the Territory and one of the highest employers.

“Playing political games with the Tourism industry is not what Territorians want.”

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